

Oil ministers make progress in talks

LYON (R) — Key OPEC oil ministers have made substantial progress in resolving differences that have blocked agreement to cut their official oil price below an unrealistic level which has driven away many clients, Kuwait's Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al Sabah said Sunday. All 13 member states are due to attend a meeting here Monday following intensive consultations among a group of ministers and their experts trying to narrow differences on price and production levels. OPEC ministers last met in January in Geneva where they failed to agree on how best to tackle the oil glut which has more than halved their sales in the past three years.

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Arafat leaves for New Delhi

BAHRAIN (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat left Riyadh for New Delhi Sunday to head the Palestine Liberation Organisation's delegation to the non-aligned summit due to start Monday, the official Saudi press agency said. Mr. Arafat, who had talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia Saturday night, was quoted by Riyadh radio as saying that a Palestinian working paper to be submitted to the summit would be based on an Arab Middle East peace plan. He also said he had briefed the Saudi leader on the outcome of last month's meeting of the Palestine National Council (Parliament) in Algiers.

China, Soviets to discuss trade ties

MOSCOW (R) — Chinese Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Jia Shi arrived in Moscow Sunday for talks on developing trade between the two countries. The official news agency TASS said the Chinese official was met on arrival by Soviet Deputy Trade Minister Ivan Grishin, but it gave no other details. The trade talks, expected to last two weeks, begin a week after deputy foreign ministers from the two countries began a second round of consultations in Moscow on improving relations. According to Chinese diplomats, however, the two issues are separate. Trade talks have been held each year despite strained relations between the two states.

U.S. farm exports may be affected by world recession

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States cannot expect to increase farm exports until at least the end of 1984, Agriculture Secretary John Block said Sunday. He said this was due to the worldwide recession, the relative strength of the dollar, aggressive export policies of competing countries and the European Community's export subsidies.

South Africa detains Catholic nun

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African police have detained a Catholic nun and confiscated books from a convent near Krugersdorp, 25 kms west of here. He said this was due to the worldwide recession, the relative strength of the dollar, aggressive export policies of competing countries and the European Community's export subsidies.

Pope arrives in El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Pope John Paul Sunday arrived in El Salvador, potentially one of the most perilous stops of his Central American tour, and praised the U.S.-backed government's latest moves to end a bloody civil war. In a speech of welcome at San Salvador's military airport, President Alvaro Magana told the Pope his visit coincided with new efforts to bring peace to a country where 40 months of civil war have claimed an estimated 42,000 lives. The president singled out the formation earlier this week of a three-man peace commission charged with drafting an amnesty law to provide firm guarantees for the safety of leftist guerrillas laying down their arms.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

الجordan تايمز ناشر مالي مستقل عربية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية "الرأي"

Israel doubts over Soviet influence

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel is concerned that the Soviet Union may put difficulties in the way of an American-sponsored agreement on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, a senior Israeli official said Sunday. The official told reporters after Sunday's cabinet meeting that the closer Israel and Lebanon came to agreement, the more urgent it became to secure a clear Syrian commitment to withdraw its forces from Lebanon. He said: "The Soviets have a decisive influence over Syria which they will want to exert rather than tamely agree to another U.S. sponsored Middle East agreement. This may explain their recent move in building up Syria's military strength." Israeli leaders were plainly disappointed when Mr. Habib did not go to Damascus two weeks ago despite earlier reports that he had received an invitation from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Kohl wins landslide victory

BONN (R) — Conservative Chancellor Helmut Kohl won a landslide general election victory Sunday and the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) slumped to their worst result since 1961, reliable computer forecasts said.

Forecasts on both national television channels gave Mr. Kohl's alliance of Christian Democrats (CDU) and the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) around 49 per cent of the vote. It was not immediately clear whether the CDU/CSU had won an absolute majority of parliamentary seats or whether they would need to renew a coalition with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's Free Democrats (FDP) who were winning around seven per cent.

Both forecasts gave the Social Democrats 38.2 per cent of the vote and showed the radical, anti-nuclear Greens Party scraping into parliament with just over the minimum five per cent.

Crushed by jubilant supporters at CDU headquarters chanting "Helmut, Helmut", Mr. Kohl claimed victory and said the voters

had given him a mandate to continue "a policy of the centre."

Social Democratic challenger Hans-Joachim Vogel conceded defeat shortly afterwards. He congratulated the chancellor and pledged constructive opposition in the new parliament.

The margin of victory, after a hard-fought campaign dominated by unemployment and nuclear missiles, was greater than most opinion polls had forecast.

Television commentators called the outcome sensational.

CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss, the Bavarian state premier, declined to say in a television interview whether he would press for the post of foreign minister in the new government.

But his supporters laughed and cheered when he said: "I'm flying to Bonn tomorrow."

Baghdad blast kills Air France office manager

BAGHDAD (R) — An explosive charge ripped through the Air France office in Baghdad Saturday, fatally wounding the Iraqi office manager, a French Embassy spokesman said Sunday.

The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) earlier reported that several staff and clients were injured in the blast which it said was engineered by "hiring elements in coordination with the Iranian and Syrian regimes."

The French embassy spokesman said the office manager died of his injuries Saturday night.

There was no information on the condition or number of the others reported injured.

No French staff were among those injured. The bomb was planted behind the office, the spokesman said.

The blast follows bomb attacks on five French targets in Pakistan last month.

Official sources in Karachi say they are questioning Iranian students in connection with the explosions which damaged an office and the home of France's honorary consul in Lahore.

France has recently taken a strongly pro-Baghdad stance in the Gulf war. President Francois Mitterrand said in December that Iraq could not be allowed to lose the war and French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson visited Baghdad last month as part of a tour of Arab states.

Rows over the former Spanish colony have paralysed the organisation of African Unity (OAU) for a year and may re-surface when the summit discusses the Western Sahara. African diplomats said.

Palestinian, Israeli talks on POW exchange suspended

DAMASCUS (R) — Delicate negotiations on an exchange of prisoners between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have been suspended, a senior PLO official said Sunday.

The official, who declined to be identified, said contacts which the PLO had been holding with Israel through the Austrian government and the International Committee of the Red Cross had "stumbled and stopped."

"These contacts have halted with no positive result achieved," he added. The official said a PLO delegation which had been handling the issue had returned to Damascus from Vienna.

The PLO said a week ago it was hoping to find out within two days when the exchange might take place. The guerrillas were asking

for the release of some 6,500 Palestinians and Lebanese in exchange for eight Israeli captives in Lebanon last September.

About 1,000 of the prisoners the PLO wants are in Israeli jails and the rest are in a prison camp at Ansa in South Lebanon.

Meanwhile a pro-Syrian commando group said it was holding separate contacts on a prisoner exchange through the International Red Cross in Damascus.

A spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), Fadil Shourou, told reporters that his group refused to take part in any contacts through Austria and would not comply with any agreement reached that way.

PLO sources have said the PFLP-GC is holding two Israelis and the mainstream Fatah organisation has six. But Mr. Shourou said the PFLP-GC was holding more than two Israeli prisoners.

He declined to give any details and said his group would not allow the Red Cross or anyone else to visit the prisoners it was holding until the Israelis handed over a list of Palestinians taken from the Ansar camp in Saida Lebanon into Israel.

Mr. Shourou said more than 150 Palestinians, including important PLO figures, had been taken to Israel. He said the PFLP-GC had received a list of 90 names through the International Red Cross but was waiting for more.

But, he said, the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the

under drugs earnings, and present as evidence their findings, previously inadmissible.

The law responds to the changing style of mafia bosses who now operate like multinational executives, with lawyers and financial experts.

Few big names figured among the suspected gangsters netted in Saturday's operation, but among them was the 17-year-old son of an alleged Naples mafia boss, Luigi Volato, known as the Califfo because of an alleged "harem" in his villa stronghold on the slopes of Mount Vesuvius.

Italy cracks down on mafia clans

PALERMO, Sicily (R) — Police Sunday they smashed several mafia clans when they arrested 834 suspected gangsters in southern Italy Saturday in a vast operation using 8,700 paramilitary Carabinieri.

Police said they recovered 291 stolen cars and one billion lire (\$715,000) in stolen money, seized 175 shotguns and military rifles and 140 hand guns, and impounded explosives and drugs.

Police backed by dogs and helicopters caught 548 people in the act of crimes and arrested 286 on existing warrants.

"We struck a hard blow against

organised crime," a police officer said. "We have broken up various clans and struck at the heart of racketeers in certain areas of the south."

Police said he had a photocopy of a confidential DEA document concerning surveillance of suspected drug traffickers between Italy, Latin America and the United States.

The fact that the mafia apparently has access to secret files is disturbing for agents whose lives are already under constant threat, police said.

Francesco De Manteo, wanted

on a minor charge of aiding and

abetting a mafioso, was arrested in February on his return from visiting relatives in Zurich.

Police said he had a photocopy of a confidential DEA document concerning surveillance of suspected drug traffickers between Italy, Latin America and the United States.

After gunmen murdered a general, Carlo Alberto Dalla Ato, in Sicily last September, parliament passed a new anti-mafia law which facilitated Saturday's mass swoop.

The new law enables inves-

igators to probe financial institutions and channels used to lau-

nder drugs earnings, and present as evidence their findings, previously inadmissible.

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The two-round election—the second round takes place next Sunday—follows a tough, two-month campaign by left and right-wing political groupings.

The results, particularly from the 221 cities which have populations over 30,000, are seen by both left and right as a referendum on Socialist policies.

The "message" from the electorate, combined with the results of Sunday's West German election, could prove crucial for the immediate fate of the French franc, twice devalued since Mr. Mitterrand came to power in 1981 and again under heavy pressure.

Polls were closing Sunday between five and eight p.m. (1600 and 1900 GMT), depending on area and first results were expected shortly after the last ones.

A victory in Sunday's election would increase pressure for an EMS adjustment.

The French government is expected to introduce new austerity measures soon to curb a soaring trade deficit and bring inflation down from its current annual rate of 10 per cent.

But an effective vote of censure for the Socialist and Communist majority in central government in the municipal elections would probably force Mr. Mitterrand to modify his plans and give some ground to a section of the Socialist Party calling for import curbs and reflation.

The Gaullist RPR Party, led by Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, and the UDF centrist grouping, whose figurehead is former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, have been calling on the electorate to "deliver a warning" to the government, which does not face parliamentary elections again until 1986.

Hussein arrives in New Delhi

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein and the accompanying Jordanian delegation arrived in New Delhi Sunday to participate in the seventh non-aligned summit scheduled to begin Monday.

King Hussein was met at the airport by Indian President Zail Singh and high ranking Indian officials.

King Hussein is accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi, Court Minister Amer Khammash and Information Minister Adnan Odeh. Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem will join the delegation in the Indian capital.

Mubarak attacks PLO

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak has attacked the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for what he called its interference in Egyptian affairs.

Prince Hassan called upon the conferees to focus attention on the needs of Palestinians in the occupied territories by taking practical decisions and outlining steps to defend them against Israeli violations of Arab labour rights.

At the ALO opening session, Dr. Jawad Al Anani, minister of labour, also delivered a speech in which he said "it is a great honour for this conference to have royal patronage, which comes in recognition of the conference's importance and in support of its ambitions for a future where all humans will be honoured and respected."

He pointed out that all the agenda subjects to be discussed are interrelated, "we are determined to debate objectively as one nation, and by taking into account the diversity of opinions we hope to achieve the optimum answers."

"All labour groups in Jordan, everyone who helped organise the conference and its participants are very anxious to make sure that it fulfills its aspirations," he said.

The ALC is also attended by 300 delegates from the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Federation of Arab Trade Unions, the Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce, the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Jordan has invariably honoured its national commitments and provided all possible facilities to restore Arab rights in Palestine, said Prince Hassan.

Regarding the Iran-Iraq war, Prince Hassan expressed the hope that the New Delhi non-aligned

summit will pass resolutions to facilitate the ending of the war.

Prince Hassan called for further Arab economic cooperation in the face of mounting difficulties resulting from the international economic crisis.

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Mr. Mubarak, speaking to Egyptian parliamentarians Saturday, was quoted by the semi-official newspaper Al Ahram as saying:

"Some Palestinian leaders are trying to drive a wedge between the government and the Egyptian people by urging the PLO to promote relations with Egypt's nationalist forces."

Mr. Mubarak reminded PLO leaders of the presence in Egypt of more than 45,000 Palestinians, including students and merchants.

"I will never accept their (PLO) interference in our internal affairs... it is totally rejected," Mr. Mubarak said.

Any prospects for a meeting in New Delhi between Mr. Mubarak and PLO leader Yasser Arafat faded as a result of the president's remarks.

Mr. Mubarak, speaking to Egyptian parliamentarians Saturday, was quoted by the semi-official newspaper Al Ahram as saying:

"President Mubarak is not seeking a meeting with anybody."

In Delhi, Mr. Mubarak is expected to discuss Middle East peace efforts with other non-aligned leaders.

He has already announced his support for President Reagan's peace initiative.

U.S. making 'incredible fuss' about Soviet missiles in Syria, says Pravda

MOSCOW (R) — Pravda said Sunday the United States was making an "incredible fuss" about the siting of Soviet-made air defence missile systems in Syria and accused Washington of wanting to keep its troops in Lebanon.

The Communist Party daily said U.S. complaints about the new surface-to-air missile batteries reflected a double standard in viewing the requirements of Israel on

The U.S. has invariably honoured its national commitments and provided all possible facilities to restore Arab rights in Palestine, said Prince Hassan.

Commenting on reports from New Delhi of a possible meeting to be held there by Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Arafat, the paper said:

"President Mubarak is not seeking a meeting with anybody."

In Delhi, Mr. Mubarak is expected to discuss Middle East peace efforts with other non-aligned leaders.

Arab League
finance committee
meeting March 14

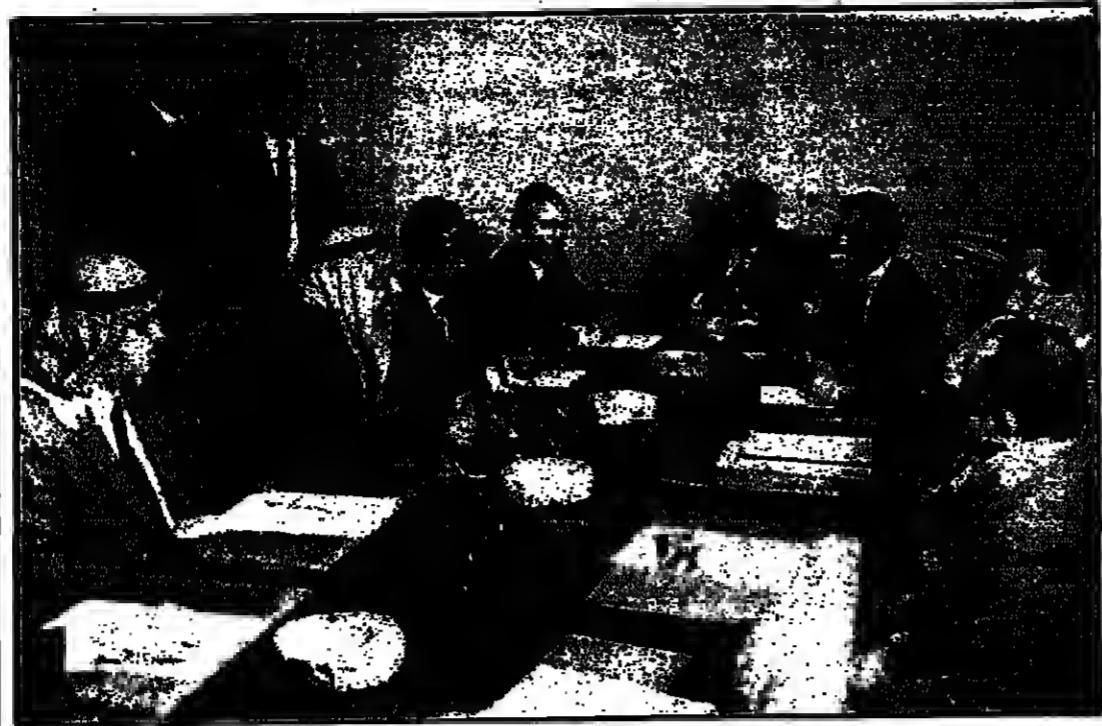
AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the meetings of the Arab League's Administrative and Financial Standing Committee which are expected to start in Tunis on March 14.

The committee will discuss, during its week-long meetings, a number of subjects connected with the Arab League's financial position, a request by the Lebanese government to be exempt from paying its contribution to the Arab League's general budget for the current year, the Arab League's contribution to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and a number of other topics. Jordan's delegation consists of two senior officials attached to the Jordanian embassy in Tunisia.

AOAD receives
Jordan's subs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture is transferring the sum of \$49,295 to the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) in Tunis which represents Jordan's subscription to the AOAD.

On Saturday, the Arab League secretariat in Tunis said that it received a transfer of \$110,500 from Jordan. This forms the first instalment of Jordan's financial contribution to the construction of the new Arab League building in Tunis. A secretariat announcement said that Jordan was the first Arab country to pay a part of its commitment for this project. Jordan's total contribution to the project amounts to \$331,500 which will be paid in three instalments. The total estimated cost of the building is \$3 million.



Representatives from the Friends of Salt Society, based in Kuwait, Sunday sign an agreement to build a cultural centre in Salt to be paid for by the society (Petra photo).

Kuwaitis to build Salt centre

AMMAN (Petra) — An agreement was signed at the Housing Bank Sunday to establish a cultural centre in Salt, some 25 kilometres west of Amman. The project is to be carried out by the Friends of Salt Society (FSS) in Kuwait, and will be implemented by the Kuwaiti Al Nasiriah Construction Company.

Following the signing ceremony,

Mr. Atiqi, who is economic adviser to the Emir of Kuwait, said that the project illustrates the true and strong ties existing between the Kuwaiti and Jordanian peoples. The Kuwaiti people believe in sparing no efforts for the sake of reconstructing the Arab homeland, Mr. Atiqi said. He added that the project will be financed by the FSS's members in Kuwait which represents a token of friendship between the two countries.

Mr. Atiqi, who is economic adviser to the Emir of Kuwait, said that the cultural centre envisaged in the plan will be constructed in the traditional architectural style existing in Salt, and expressed his appreciation to all those who had so far assisted with the project.

Also speaking on the occasion was the Salt Development Co-operation (SDC) Board of Directors Chairman Jafar Al Shami who paid tribute to the close and

friendly ties existing between the Jordanian and Kuwaiti peoples. He also thanked the FSS for financing the project.

The signing ceremony was attended by the Kuwaiti ambassador to Jordan, Ibrahim Al Sabo, Housing Bank Director-General Zuhair Khouri, Salt Mayor Abdul Razzak Nsour and several SDC members.

After the ceremony Dr. Nsour told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the people of Salt are deeply grateful to the Kuwaitis for their support and their development projects.

The project will comprise of a cultural, social, educational and sports complex, with a hall seating a potential audience of 2,500, which can be used for seminars, lectures and as a theatre. The complex will have a public library, a vocational school and a mosque, Dr. Nsour added.

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HEADLINES

IDB to finance new development projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has decided to help finance the Jordanian maritime line and its timber projects, according to Finance Minister Salem Massadeh.

Speaking on returning to Amman from a meeting in Jeddah of the bank's board of governors, Mr. Massadeh said that discussion also centred on Jordanian projects which are being partly financed by IDB and those in which it will participate once the feasibility studies have been completed. Such projects include the greater Amman sewerage project, the national water supply network, Al Shidieh phosphates and the Jordan cement programme, Mr. Massadeh said.

He said that the IDB governors, at their meeting which opened on March 1, reviewed the bank's activities and achievements in the Arab and Islamic nations, and endorsed a future plan of action.

IDB, established in 1975, has 42 members from Arab and Islamic countries. The major share holders are Saudi Arabia (26.22 per cent), Libya (16.38), the United Arab Emirates (14.42) and Kuwait (13.31).

Accompanying the finance minister to the Jeddah meeting was a team from the Central Bank of Jordan led by its Governor Mohammad Sa'id Al Nabil.

Meeting debates street selling

AMMAN (Petra) — Activities of the Amman business community were reviewed at a meeting Sunday attended by Amman Mayor

Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh and Amman Chamber of Commerce council members.

The municipality will shortly assign a plot of land for street vendors who will have to pay licence fees in accordance with municipality regulations, Mr. Rawabdeh said. He added that a team of engineers are currently handling the problem of street pavements especially those directly in front of existing stores.

Both sides at the meeting expressed their readiness to launch close cooperation with the purpose of increasing and improving the level of public services in Amman.

During the meeting the council members representing the city traders submitted a number of demands.

AMMAN (Petra) — Projects to be carried out in Madaba by the Queen Alia Jordan Welfare Fund (QAJWF) were discussed at a meeting here Sunday in which the Madaba Mayor Ahmad Al Azzaq participated. A spokesman for the QAJWF committee responsible for overseeing the projects said that several working papers had been discussed by the committee members dealing with the proposed schemes.

The projects, to be implemented in Madaba, include a children's garden, and a centre for promoting the cultural and educational standards of women in the Madaba district. The overall cost of these projects will be nearly JD 10,000, the spokesman said.

King Talal Dam gates opened

AMMAN (Petra) — As a result of continuous rain-fall, the King Talal Dam is overflowing with water, and its gates have been opened to allow surplus water to flow into the valley and surrounding fields below, according to a statement issued by the Public Security Department. The statement asked people not to go near the Zarqa River close to the dam and the River Jordan.

Irbid to boost water supply

IRBID (Petra) — Irbid's water supply is to be boosted by a daily amount of 4,000 cubic metres raising its daily share to 27,000 cubic metres, according to a new project carried out by the Water Supply Corporation (WSC).

According to Mr. Rizk Ghudian, deputy director of the WSC's branch here, four new artesian wells in Al Aqab region have been connected by 24-inch pipes to the Irbid Governorate to meet its growing water requirements especially in the summer.

Jordan Times
Tel: 666265



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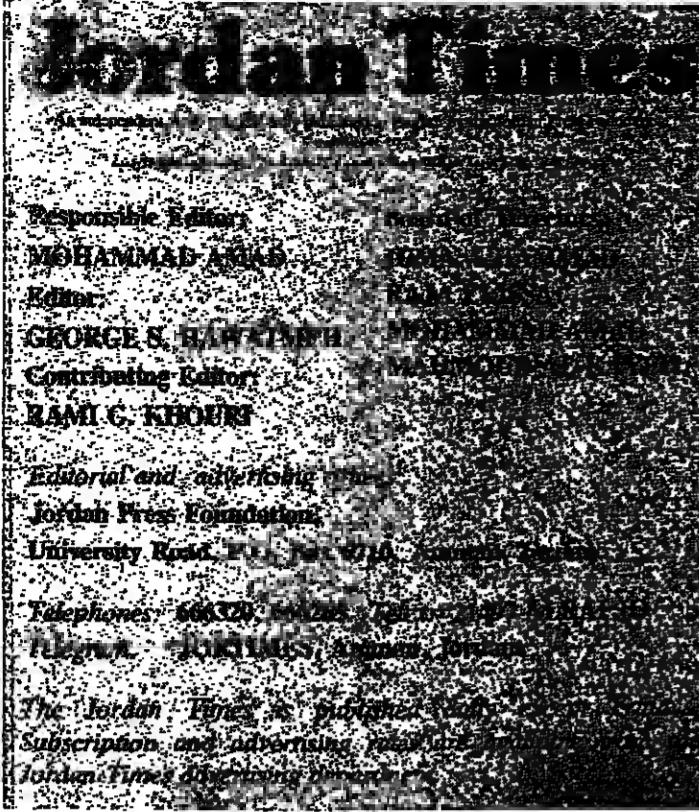
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Non-alignment — the story of success?

THE seventh conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, which is due to start in India today, has a broad range of regional and international conflicts and disputes to consider, but, above all, it has the non-aligned countries' own purpose of unity to cement and strengthen.

Issues ranging from the Palestine problem, the Iran-Iraq war, Kampuchea, Afghanistan, disarray in the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the need for a new international economic order, to a settlement of the Namibian question and others are all important, and one way or the other the Delhi summit has to tackle them. What is most important, however, is the fact that unless the Third World as represented by its biggest political forum, acts in concert to reduce the impact of superpower rivalry on the rest of the world, the Non-Aligned Movement will continue to suffer from playing a secondary role in our lives and for the future.

Since the first non-aligned summit in Belgrade in 1961, the movement has grown from 25 countries to include 97 members now, with at least 60 heads of state or government attending the Delhi summit. Unfortunately, and for a number of reasons, this growth—although healthy and promising—has not been able to add all the weight necessary to make the struggle for global peace and equality realise its full objective. And that is why there is an urgent need today to take bigger steps towards achieving the aims and goals of non-alignment for which all human kind basically yearns.

It is both necessary and useful if the conference in the Indian capital this week indeed focuses on areas of agreements like disarmament, calling for an end to the accumulation of nuclear arms and policies of destabilisation and occupation directed at the Third World, and reform of world economic institutions in boosting cooperation between developing countries and promoting progress in the North-South dialogue on aid and trade. But it is also both right and imperative that participants come to grips with their own problems and seriously attempt to narrow their differences on many other important issues around the world.

How successful the seventh non-aligned summit will be depends largely on how willing, wise and far-sighted leaders of the Third World themselves can be. As much of the world's attention turns to New Delhi during the coming few days, we can only hope that non-alignment will remain the story of success it has largely been, and more, for we all badly need a strong third force.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Jordan's key role in Delhi

His Majesty King Hussein, along with his accompanying delegation, visited Oman Saturday on the way to New Delhi to attend the non-aligned summit due to open Monday. The present summit is of special importance because of the sensitiveness of the issues on its agenda, the chief ones of which are the Palestinian question and the Iran-Iraq war.

Jordan has a vital role to play at the non-aligned summit. Jordan's main consideration at the conference is to rally the non-aligned nations to support the Palestinian cause, and to guarantee their backing for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian accord which is the key to peace and the freeing of the occupied Arab territories. The non-aligned nations will be urged to play a greater role in confronting Israeli terrorist acts against the Arab people both inside the occupied areas and without.

Jordan will also concentrate efforts on bringing to the conference's attention the dangers of the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war, and the need for an effective and determined drive by the non-aligned nations to end the conflict as quickly as possible.

Jordan has invariably been an active non-aligned member of the movement, and is fully committed to the success of the conference in accomplishing its noble goals of reinforcing solidarity among its member-states, guaranteeing a better future for their peoples, and promoting world peace, social justice and stability.

Sawt Al Shabab: Israel adopts new tactic

The Israeli terrorist practices in Lebanon reflects the aggressive mentality behind all the practices of the present Israeli ruling clique. They time and again prove to be unable to cut themselves free from their terrorist past. Their terrorist tendencies are simply a manifestation of the racist ideology they advocate, namely Zionism.

The new tactic adopted by the Israeli government is not astonishing in any way. They create, arm and let loose terrorist gangs of the Gush Emunim whose job is to terrify the Arabs into deserting their homes. They impose a reign of terror, making life in the occupied Arab territories unbearable, and help to create a conducive atmosphere for the intensification of the settlement drive in these territories.

After the recent acceleration of these Zionist assaults against the Arabs, particularly in the Hebron area, the Israeli authorities had to admit that "underground terrorist organisations" do exist, and tried to present their activities as a reaction to and act of retaliation against Arab terrorism. The excuse that these gangs are of an underground nature is quite ironic. The leaders and members of such organisations are part of the ruling class, and they receive their arms and financing from the Israeli government.

It is quite obvious that the terrorist activities of such gangs goes hand in hand with the Israeli government's settlement plans. It is aimed at motivating the settlement process and giving a feeling of security, not to mention superiority, to the new settlers. The Palestinians are made to leave their homes, new lands are expropriated for "security" purposes, and a new wave of planting new "defence" settlements starts.

The Israeli ruling circles bear the responsibility for these acts of terrorism committed in the occupied Arab territories; it is they who must be made to answer for it.

DE FACTONOMICS

The Arab Labour Conference

The eleventh session of the Arab Labour Conference (ALC) opened yesterday in Amman under the patronage of His Majesty the King. The conference is held regularly every year. The level and number of delegations attending the present session were exceptional. All members of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) are attending and nineteen out of twenty-one delegations are headed by ministers. Observers include delegations from the ILO, the Federation of Arab Trade Unions, the Organisation of African Unity, the Federation of Arab Chambers of Com-

merce, The Arab League and Others.

Three hundred delegates will over ten days discuss major labour issues. Oman has joined the ALO and will take part in the conference for the first time.

There are many factors behind the large turnout in Amman. First, Jordan has a unique labour market where every member country can find common areas of interest. It has a long experience being a labour-exporting country with all the resulting economic and social effects. Jordan has also resorted to imports of labour and can share with other Arab

countries its experience in regulating labour inflows.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has emphasised the particular significance of human resources in national development and international relations. In his key speech before the ILO conference in 1977 he put forward a proposal of creating an international-labour compensation facility which continues to attract attention in many fora.

Institutionally, the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) was established in 1976 and is now implementing an ambitious programme of constructing training centres. The

Social Security Corporation was created in 1978 and has extended its coverage to about one third of the total labour force in Jordan.

There are other labour developments in Jordan which interest other countries such as measures to improved working conditions, cooperative labour relations, the content and approach of the draft labour law and the increasing rate of working women.

Institutionally, the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) was established in 1976 and is now implementing an ambitious programme of constructing training centres. The

II. Economic recession has worsened structural unemployment in most of the developing countries. Many countries are facing difficulties in keeping social security systems solvent. All of these developments have pointed to the significance of labour matters and have induced governments, employers and workers to seek each others views.

The issues before this session are diverse. They cover all items on the gradual "restructuring" of the ALO. This includes its well-prepared budget, its work programme, an exposition of its activities in

1982. Another matter before the conference is to coordinate the Arab position before the coming ILO meeting in Geneva.

There are also other substantive items on the agenda which will each be discussed by a special technical committee. These include wage policies, labour administration, social services for workers, and the strategy of manpower development.

As a host country, Jordan has undertaken all arrangements before and during the Arab Labour Conference. Its conclusions, however, will depend on the participants.

Will the 7th meeting offer any realistic answers to the world's real problems?

Non-aligned summit —

prospects and expectations

By Dr. Ranko Petkovic

The seventh summit of the non-aligned countries, which will be held in New Delhi from March 7 to 11, will be faced with the task of offering realistic answers to the following questions:

— How to prevent the world bursting into new conflict situations and the eruption of a world nuclear conflict, the prospect of which would be unforeseeable?

— How to halt the further deterioration of the state of affairs in the world economy and international economic relations and what should be undertaken to speed up the establishment of the new international economic order?

— What should be done to put a peaceful end to the disputes and conflicts amongst the non-aligned countries and how to prevent these disputes from multiplying and thereby facilitating the infiltration of the big powers and bringing about a decrease in the action capacity of the Non-Aligned Movement?

— What should be done to increase the efforts and the effectiveness of the U.N. in the preservation of peace and security and how to ensure the full implementation of U.N. decisions and recommendations?

— What measures should be taken to strengthen the solidarity of the non-aligned and increase the action capacity of the movement?

In the movement of non-alignment, which accepts ideological and political pluralism, differences in interests and views are the expression of the full equality of all participants. As the movement's member countries

are situated in different geopolitical regions and enjoy different civilisation heritages, they are steadfast in their independent and non-bloc stance as much as it is possible, given objective and subjective political, economic and military-strategic factors. At the

seventh conference in New Delhi they are expected to conduct a debate on a number of important controversial questions with an impressive level of agreement on vital common interests.

Secondly, there has been a marked decrease in the militancy of those in the movement who put forward or transmit bloc concepts, both in the case of those who support the theory of the so-called natural alliance with one bloc, or those who, in the interest of the other bloc, would wish to bring the movement of non-alignment to a position of passive, neutralist equidistance vis-à-vis the big powers.

Thirdly, the stepped-up danger of local and more extensive aggression, the increased instability of the entire economic system and the periodical paralysis of major channels of international communications, especially of certain regional and sub-regional organisations, emphasise the joint responsibility and direct concern of the non-aligned to increase the degree of their unity and the effectiveness of their activity in order to bring the world out of the deadlock brought about by the big world powers.

To all this must be added the fact that India, as host of the seventh conference, is a country which is objectively in a position to ensure the maximum level of unanimity on all the most important questions for the future joint activity of the non-aligned.

— Yugoslav News Agency, Tariq features



Tito, Nehru and Nehru at Brioni, Yugoslavia, in 1956 -- the first multilateral meeting of the Non-aligned

Romania now appears to be over its financial crisis

By Jonathan Lynn
Reuter

BUCHAREST — Romania, which a year ago seemed to be heading for a Polish-style debt crisis, now appears to be over its financial problems, according to Western diplomats in Bucharest.

Supplies to the home market have improved, but though Romanians can loosen their belts a few notches, they face continued austerity for some time, the diplomats believe. They question whether Romania's economy can even run at full efficiency under the country's strictly centralised political system, despite efforts over the past year to cut energy consumption and boost productivity.

"They seem to be out of the woods on the financial side," one diplomat said.

Stelian Marin, a director in the finance ministry, told Reuters in an interview this week that Romania would not seek to delay any debt payments to Western banks and governments next year, as it had to do this year and last. Early in 1982 Bucharest had a Western debt burden of nearly \$11 billion and stopped payments for imports, while Romanians faced the worst food shortages since World War II.

But the debt problem was largely because the bulk of repayments were bunched in the early 1980s. This was aggravated by rising interest rates, and Western banks' nervousness about Eastern Europe in view of the Polish debt crisis. Negotiations with banks last year to delay payment of \$2.3 billion owed in 1981 and 1982 were tough but talks this year have gone

speedily, building on last year's experiences. Romania hopes by mid-May for a formal agreement with banks delaying payment of \$600 million owed this year, and will soon start talks with Western governments on delaying payment of some \$150 million. Mr. Marin said.

Repayments will be easier in future as the amount due declines from recent peaks. Interest rates are falling, and bankers' concerns have moved from East Europe to Latin America. The trade surpluses needed to pay off the debts have been achieved by cutting imports rather than boosting exports. Official figures show that hard-currency imports slumped to \$4.7 billion in 1982 from seven billion in 1981, while exports fell to \$6.2 billion from 7.2 billion.

Good harvest

The import squeeze as well as poor distribution and a farming system offering few incentives caused food shortages in a country with some of Europe's richest farmland. But a good harvest last year, with a record grain crop of more than 22 million tonnes, has improved matters. Western diplomats said feared shortages had not materialised this winter, with apples, eggs, lettuce and leeks in good supply, but meat and some dairy products remained scarce. Everyone has enough to eat, according to Romanian officials. One state planning committee official said Romanians consumed more than 3,400 calories per head daily, one of the top 10 levels in the world, and ate 62 kilos of meat a

year. But diplomats said the high calorie figure reflected the ready availability of sticky cakes, ice-cream and bread, and did not mean a healthy diet. The meat figure surprised them. The government cut the population's consumption for the first time last year, but it hopes to ease austerity from 1984. Mr. Marin said. Industry also had to make do with less, with cuts in energy, raw materials and investment, he said.

Romania has adopted a policy of counter-trade, under which it will import goods only if the seller will take Romanian goods in exchange, officials say. It still pays cash for raw materials and manufactured goods urgently needed for industry. For instance Renault, the French car firm, is being paid for the Dacia car plant it set up in Romania with car components manufactured there, officials said.

They denied these strict import limits would make industry uncompetitive, saying Romania had invested heavily in modern equipment in recent years and hoped to meet most of its machine tool requirements from its own factories. Romania's export efforts could suffer later this year from a political quarrel with the United States, one of its biggest Western trading partners.

Under a new law world-be-emigrants from Romania must pay back the cost of their education in hard currency, which can be thousands of dollars. Bucharest says this will ease the effects of a brain-drain to the West, but Washington has said it infringes human rights, making Romania ineligible for Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status in its U.S. trade, from it currently benefits.

Indira Gandhi faces a string of difficulties

By Jeremy Cliff
Reuter

Jawaharlal Nehru, was one of the founding fathers of the Non-Aligned Movement. Internationally, she is widely considered by Third World diplomats as an ideal chairman of the movement, with her country of almost 700 million people finely balanced between the superpowers.

Mrs. Gandhi says she wants to steer the grouping away from controversy and towards consensus during the summit, to be attended by kings, presidents and premiers from across the globe. Western diplomats say India is more likely to chart a more independent course for the movement which they

say look a Pro-Soviet tilt under Cuba's chairmanship.

But despite her international appeal, Mrs. Gandhi is judged on more basic issues at home. Press commentators say public disquiet about alleged widespread corruption led to her party's stunning defeat in southern India. The tough-minded premier has absolved herself from direct responsibility for the Assam bloodbath and rejected opposition demands in parliament for her to quit. It would be terrible for Assam if I resigned, she told a New Delhi press conference.



clip 11-15-15

WORLD

Hawke businesslike after victory

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's second Labour Party government since 1949 should be formed and ruling by the end of this week. Prime Minister-elect Bob Hawke said Sunday.

Former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, whose conservative coalition government suffered a crushing 5.5-per-cent swing against it in Saturday's general election, said in a statement he would formally resign later Sunday.

Mr. Hawke told a news conference in Canberra that he expected the handing over of power to be completed next Friday when the new government would be sworn in.

Vote-counting was still going on Sunday, but the electoral office said Labour was assured of a majority of at least 20 and probably 25 seats in the 125-seat Lower House compared with the outgoing Fraser government's 21-seat advantage.

The Senate, Parliament's watchdog upper chamber, will remain evenly divided with the balance of power held by the small Democratic Party which is sympathetic to most Labour policies.

Mr. Hawke, elected on a promise to unite the nation and attack an unemployment rate of 10.4 per cent and an annual inflation rate of 11 per cent, said he would announce his cabinet after a party meeting on Thursday.

Questioned on foreign policy, he said Bill Hayden, the man he replaced as Labour leader a month ago on the day Mr. Fraser called the snap election, would be foreign minister.

One of his priorities would be to establish a good working relationship with the Indonesian government as soon as possible, he said, and Mr. Hayden would make an early visit to Jakarta.

The Labour Party has condemned Indonesia's annexation in 1975 of the former Portuguese colony, East Timor, but Mr. Hawke said: "We will be trying to re-establish strong constructive relations with Indonesia."

He said he foresaw no problems in continuing close relations with the United States, particularly over the use of Australian bases by American forces.

He also said he had no immediate plans to withdraw a small Australian contingent from the Sinai peacekeeping force but said the matter would be reviewed because it was not run by the United Nations.

CANBERRA (R) — Bob Hawke, a shirt-sleeved populist with great oratorical skills and charm, captured Australia's highest office only a month after assuming the leadership of the Labour Party.

Mr. Hawke, untried at government, entered parliament only three years ago after a long and successful career as leader of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU).

His prominent role in settling every major Labour dispute in the country during the 1970s earned him the nickname of Australia's

"second" prime minister, while his public battle with alcoholism and his commitment to improving the lot of the average worker made him an Australian folk hero.

As prime minister for the next three years, Mr. Hawke, 53, will have to draw on all his legendary negotiating skills and personal popularity to pull the country out of its worst recession since World War II.

Mr. Hawke pinned Labour's campaign on a promise to conclude a social compact between unions, management and government to reduce Australia's 10 per cent unemployment rate and 11 per cent inflation.

His rapport with the unions will be put to the test when he takes over the reins of government from Mr. Malcolm Fraser.

The campaign revealed as much about their personality differences as their conflicting attitudes toward the unions.

Mr. Hawke, scorning suits for shirt sleeves, scored points with his fist-waving oratory and promises of tax cuts and more power for workers.

Mr. Fraser, sombre in grey-pin striped suits and speaking in his habitual monotone, described Labour promises as union-dominated economic folly which would bankrupt many businesses.

Mr. Fraser, the second-longest serving prime minister in the country, also called the Labour leader a "madman".

The climax of the campaign came when Mr. Fraser told voters their money would be safer under the bed than in the bank if Labour were elected. But Mr. Hawke drew laughter by retorting the prime minister had always said the Communists hid there.

Another highlight of the campaign was Mrs. Fraser's public admission that she, like many of Australia's women voters, found Mr. Hawke "sexy".

Mr. Hawke's good looks and reputation as a ladies' man are part of his strong populist appeal.

The son of a rural preacher, Mr. Hawke entered the Guinness book of Records for drinking two and a half pints of beer (almost 1.5 litres) in 12 seconds at Oxford University, where he studied on a Rhodes scholarship.

Later, Mr. Hawke gave up alcohol, modified his earthy language, and entered parliament for the first time in 1980 after an earlier attempt in 1963 failed.

His reputation as both an intellectual and down-to-earth moderate bringing him support from both left-wing union leaders as well as from some employers who admire his ability to negotiate an end to crippling strikes.

Mr. Hawke has said he lost some of his radicalism over the years and now believes only "consensus politics" can achieve success in present economic conditions.

Old Assam killings now found out

MANGALDAI, India (R) — Mobs killed at least 190 people, mostly immigrant Muslims from Bangladesh, during two days of violence last month in the northeastern Indian state of Assam, a police official has said.

Unofficial estimates put the death toll at 500 in this latest incident of massacre in Assam.

The massacre occurred on Feb. 14 and 15 during voting in state elections that turned out to be the bloodiest in that state.

At least 2,600 people were officially estimated to have died and tens of thousands were made homeless around the time of the election when militant Assamese campaigned for illegal immigrants to be deported from the state.

The official said the latest massacre took place on a virtually inaccessible river island about 25 kilometres from here. Children and old men were among the victims.

He said indigenous Assamese Hindus raided 13 villages on the Chaulukhawa Chaporai Island apparently to avenge attacks by Muslim inhabitants.

The state has been calm since troops moved into trouble spots in central Brahmaputra Valley last Tuesday with powers to make searches and arrests without warrant and seize arms.

Mangaldoi in Darrang district has been a major trouble spot since police shot dead 16 people early last month in the run-up to the elections.

The Indian Express newspaper quoted survivors of the island massacre as saying thousands of Assamese Hindus mounted the assault after destroying bridges and setting up roadblocks to prevent police reaching the area.

The paper said the island's inhabitants tried to resist but were heavily outnumbered by the Assamese, who were armed with bows and arrows and spears.

The Express said the authorities did not learn about the killings for some time because most of the survivors fled to remote villages.

Playwright buried in St. Louis

ST LOUIS, Missouri (R) — Playwright Tennessee Williams was buried Saturday in St. Louis, the city where he spent his boyhood and young manhood.

The author, who was found dead in a New York hotel room last week at the age of 71, was interred next to his mother, Edwina Dakin Williams, after a Roman Catholic funeral mass.

More than 1,000 people attended the service, at which Williams was honoured as a poet of compassion.

The Rev. Jerome Wilkerson said: "He would seem to have remained all his life among the walking wounded... he did a lot of dying."

Friday night Broadway theatre-goers observed a minute of silence for him.

Tokyo press builds up coup rumour

TOKYO (R) — A Tokyo newspaper has quoted an unidentified air force officer as saying that members of the Japanese armed forces plotted a coup against the government in 1980, but that the plot was foiled by military police.

A front-page report Saturday in the Tokyo Shimbun follows a government denial on Wednesday of similar allegations in parliament.

A minority party member had claimed that about 10,000 troops, sailors and airmen were involved in a plot to bomb the prime minister's residence with napalm and occupy Parliament.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Masaharu Gotoda told reporters Saturday night that the government would not investigate the newspaper's report as it had already gone into the earlier allegation.

The report quoted the officer as saying in an interview that some army officers initially proposed the coup in 1977. Navy and air-force officers joined in later.

The officer was reported to have said the group, comprising about 180 senior army, navy and air-force officers, planned to arrest leaders of the government as well of the ruling and opposition parties and put Tokyo under martial law.

The draft also reaffirms articles in the new constitution barring about 100 former party leaders, including former prime minister Suleyman Demirel and Bulent Ecevit, from politics for 10 years.

Delhi summit: Display of strength, weakness

By Bernard Melusky

Reuter

NEW DELHI — The non-aligned summit which India steers from Monday has grown into a cumbersome, lumbering giant since its first meeting 22 years ago.

But while membership has mushroomed along with internal disputes, the broad aims of the seventh summit in New Delhi are the same — disarmament and a better economic deal for the world's poor.

Only 25 members were in Belgrade in 1961 when one of the movement's founders, Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito, staged the first summit. India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi will preside over 101 delegations this week.

Ghana's President Kwame Nkrumah defined non-alignment as "a moral force which should become a factor of equilibrium."

President Tito raised the problems of economic relations between newly-independent members and the West.

Peaceful coexistence and disarmament were stressed at the summit, held against a background of East-West crisis. Less than a year later the world was brought to the brink of nuclear war over the Cuban missile crisis.

The next summit, with 47 delegations present, was held in 1964 in Cairo. It marked the growing importance of Egypt and Africa in the movement and helped bring world attention to the Palestinian cause.

The 1962 border war between India and China caused divisions in the movement, still heavily intent on obliterating the remnants of the colonial era.

The Cairo summit called on non-aligned countries to be vigilant against "interference by economically advanced foreign states in the internal affairs of newly-independent countries."

It laid down five conditions for admission to the movement, including strong support for national liberation movements and on military alliances within the context of great power conflicts.

By the third summit, in Belgrade in 1970, the attendance had grown to 54. In the six years since Cairo, the Vietnam War had become a major issue.

The Belgrade summit concentrated on Vietnam and the Arab-Israeli conflict following the 1967 Middle East war. It also highlighted nationalist struggles in southern Africa.

Barbed wire, marigolds circle conference centre

NEW DELHI (R) — Barbed wire and marigolds ring New Delhi's closely-guarded conference centre where kings, presidents and prime ministers will meet for Monday's non-aligned summit.

Delhi's broad, tree-lined avenues, laid out in the days of British rule, are draped with bunting and flags. Sprays of flowers decorate arches along the route from the airport to welcome the leaders.

But the carnival atmosphere

contrasts sharply with the biggest security operation India has mounted for an international gathering.

Barricades of barbed wire have been set up on all approaches to the conference centre. Armed troops and police peer from behind bushes along the roads brimming with fresh blooms.

The gleaming white Vigyan Bhawan (House of Knowledge) conference hall has been cordoned off by Indian commandos bristling with automatic weapons.

Four luxury hotels reserved for foreign delegations have been turned into virtual fortresses. The public has been barred for the duration of the conference and marksmen have been stationed on nearby buildings.

More than 1,500 journalists from all over the world have poured into New Delhi for the summit.

Newsmen complain about being barred from the conference hall.

Lovesick sexton inspires lottery sales marathon in Italian town

TORRE ANNUNZIATA, Italy (R) — A church sexton who tried to knife his priest in a quarrel over a woman set off a boom in lottery sales in this town near Naples.

Police rushed to the church of Immacolata on Wednesday evening when parishioners reported that 60-year-old Sexton Giovanni Astarita was chasing Father Giovanni Manzio round the altar with a knife.

They told reporters they arrived just in time to stay the sexton's hand as he pinned the priest, also 60, against the wall.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Poll says Reagan should not re-run

NEW YORK (R) — A majority of Americans, 57 per cent, do not want President Reagan to run for re-election, according to a Newswatch poll. The poll of 1,006 people, conducted by Gallup for Newswatch magazine last week, gave President George Bush the strongest support among Republicans as their presidential candidate if Mr. Reagan did not run.

Italian magistrate arrives in Sofia

VIENNA (R) — The Italian magistrate conducting investigations into an international arms and heroin network based in Trento arrived in Sofia Saturday, the official Bulgarian BTA news agency reported.

The emergence of Communist governments in Indochina and Cuba's military support for Angola stirred bitter arguments among non-aligned members.

And the international economic situation had deteriorated with the energy crisis hitting rich and poor countries.

The Castro syndrome

The 1979 Havana summit gave the chairmanship to Cuba's President Fidel Castro. He saw the Soviet Union as the natural ally of the movement and tried to take it on a more radical course.

A total of 95 member countries attended the Havana meeting and some of their decisions were to spill over to New Delhi.

One was to keep the Kampuchea seat vacant because of a lack of consensus. The outcome was to deprive the ousted Khmer Rouge government, recognised by the United Nations, of the seat.

Opponents of the Vietnamese-backed government in Phnom Penh, loudly raised the issue in New Delhi. They charged that the Havana decision was made unilaterally by Cuba and that it set a dangerous precedent.

They broadened the debate by arguing that the movement needed to carry out a thorough review of what happened at Havana and to investigate the criteria and procedures for spending or expelling any member.

The radical Havana slant, eventually checked by the influence of moderates, is certain to be modified even further under Mrs. Gandhi.

Pakistani survivors not prosecuted

KARACHI (R) — Nearly 40 followers of a Muslim girl saint jumped into the ocean in tin boxes after she assured them her spiritual powers would carry them all to the shores of Iraq. Shia Muslim sources said Saturday, But 18 of the Pakistanis, including the 18-year-old boy girl Nasim Fatima, died in the sea near Karachi. Their bodies were later found by police and coastguards. The sources said 20 survivors of the bizarre pilgrimage had now flown to Baghdad to visit holy shrines in Iraq at the expense of a local philanthropist. Pakistan authorities said earlier they might be charged with attempted suicide.

Capsized Chinese ferry re-floated

PEKING (R) — A river ferry which overturned near Canton last Tuesday with the loss of about 150 lives has been re-floated and 79 bodies have been recovered, a local newspaper reported. The Yangtze Evening News said in Saturday's edition that divers had worked day and night to pull out the bodies. Eighty-six people were rescued from the ferry, Red Star 312, which overturned in a storm on the West River at Sanshui, 70 kilometres from Canton. More than 220 people were aboard, but the exact number was not known because young children did not have to buy tickets.

China to rejoin ILO in June

GENEVA (R) — China, which plans to resume its participation in the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in June after a 34-year absence, will take Canada's place among the 10 permanent members of the ILO's governing body. The ILO said in a statement it had agreed on a new list of 10 states, having permanent seats on the governing body, which groups 28 government members, 14 employer members and 14 worker members.

After rapid calculations, local people bought up lottery numbers linked to the event in magic lotto — 22 for the madman, 41 for the knife, 81 for the sexton and 84 for the church. Their faith in numbers was rewarded. Numbers 22 and 41 came up in the Naples lottery Saturday and the Turin lottery threw up 81 and 84.

DP/11-15